

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

Patrick Catena	-	President
Robert Macey	-	Vice President, District 9
Samuel DeMarco, III	-	Council-At-Large
Bethany Hallam	-	Council-At-Large
Tom Baker	-	District 1
Cindy Kirk	-	District 2
Anita Prizio	-	District 3
Tom Duerr	-	District 5
John F. Palmiere	-	District 6
Nicholas Futules	-	District 7
Paul Zavarella	-	District 8
Dewitt Walton	-	District 10
Paul Klein	-	District 11
Robert Palmosina	-	District 12
Olivia Bennett	-	District 13

Allegheny County Courthouse
Fourth Floor, Gold Room
436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

January 2, 2020 - 5:00 p.m.

SARGENT'S COURT REPORTING SERVICE, INC.
429 Forbes Avenue, Suite 1300
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
(412) 232-3882 FAX (412) 471-8733

IN ATTENDANCE:

Jared Barker - Director of Legislative Services
Jack Cambest - Allegheny County Council Solicitor
Ken Varhola - Chief of Staff
Sarah Roka - Budget Assistant
Rich Fitzgerald - County Executive
Judge Mary McGinley, Judge William Stickman,
Judge Elliot Howsie, Judge Dan Regan,
Judge Philip Ignelzi, Judge Hens-Greco,
Judge Berkeley-Clark

MS. HALLAM: I would like to call to order the January 2nd, 2020 meeting of Allegheny County Council.

(Applause.)

MS. HALLAM: Now, if we could all rise for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent prayer or reflection?

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

(Silent prayer or reflection.)

MS. HALLAM: Okay. And now for the Certificates of Election and Oaths of Office. 11347-20.

MR. BARKER: A Communication from the Allegheny County Board of Elections submitting a Certificate of Election and certifying that at the election held on the 5th day of November, 2019, Bethany Hallam was duly elected to the office of At-Large Member of Council in the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

(Applause.)

JUDGE MCGINLEY: Good evening, everybody. I'm Mary McGinley and I have the honor of swearing in Ms. Bethany Hallam today.

(Applause.)

JUDGE MCGINLEY: I thought I could work a room until I met Bethany Hallam. And Jack McKelsky once said those two will not leave a place unless every hand has been shaken and every baby has been kissed. We didn't get to kiss many babies, but we sure shook a lot of hands. And I think you will all agree with me that Bethany has an infectious personality, and you can't help but want to be around her. But what struck me most about Bethany is not only the ability that she has to relate to people, but a real true story. She has faced some of society's most difficult issues, and she brings that experience to this role with her.

The other thing that struck me about Bethany is that even after she had secured this election in the primaries, she continued to go to the reaches of this county, and she will continue to do that on council. Bethany, we are incredibly proud of you, and I can't wait to see what the future brings for Bethany Hallam.

(Applause.)

JUDGE MCGINLEY: All right. We'll do our thing. Left hand here. I, Bethany Hallam ---

MS. HALLAM: I, Bethany Hallam, ---

JUDGE MCGINLEY: --- do solemnly swear ---

MS. HALLAM: --- do solemnly swear ---

JUDGE MCGINLEY: --- that I will faithfully execute the office ---

MS. HALLAM: --- that I will faithfully execute the office ---

JUDGE MCGINLEY: --- of member of council ---

MS. HALLAM: --- of member of counsel ---

JUDGE MCGINLEY: --- of the County of Allegheny

MS. HALLAM: --- of the County of Allegheny ---

JUDGE MCGINLEY: --- and will to the best of my ability ---

MS. HALLAM: --- and will to the best of my ability ---

JUDGE MCGINLEY: --- preserve, protect, defend -

--

MS. HALLAM: --- preserve, protect, defend ---

JUDGE MCGINLEY: --- and obey the constitution of the United States ---

MS. HALLAM: --- and obey the constitution of the United States ---

JUDGE MCGINLEY: --- and the constitution and laws ---

MS. HALLAM: --- and the constitution and laws

JUDGE MCGINLEY: --- of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

MS. HALLAM: --- of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

It's official.

JUDGE MCGINLEY: It's official.

MS HALLAM: Okay.

(Applause.)

JUDGE MCGINLEY: I introduce Councilwoman Bethany Hallam.

(Applause.)

MS. HALLAM: I'm trying to catch my breath here. Thank you all so much. I just have a few words I'd like to say. Today I am beginning a four-year term as Allegheny County Council's At-Large Democrat. It is an honor I do not take lightly. And I have too many people to thank for it, many of whom are here today. But I want to take a moment to thank my family who saved me from myself and surrounded me with love and support when I needed it the most. My boyfriend, George, who put up with all the events and the campaign stress and enabled my

horrible late night eating habits on the campaign trail. I love you. My campaign manager, Darwin Leuba, who has put up with more than anyone, who asked me to run for this seat and who fought the good fight with me since day one. And every single one of you in this room who supported this campaign and the movement itself in a variety of ways.

I also want to thank my new colleague, Liv Bennett, with whom I shared a campaign office ---

(Applause.)

MS. HALLAM: --- and spent almost every day with over this past year, and who I can truly say has become more of a sister to me than anything else. And my other freshman councilmember, Tom Duerr, who kept me laughing and showed me that hard work of a campaign can be fun, too.

(Applause.)

MS. HALLAM: So three and a half years ago, I began a very different type of term just a few blocks away in the Allegheny County Jail. During my five months there, I saw with my own eyes the horrendous behavior, much of which continues to be denied by management today. But now, as a member of Allegheny County Council, my colleagues and I will be able to use our oversight power to hold leadership accountable for a jail that has had one of the highest suicide rates in the nation, and is years overdue in proving its compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act.

But it's not just the jail that needs oversight and overhaul. Our region's air quality continues to decline, especially during temperature inversions, and it is unacceptable that children and seniors are more and more frequently being forced to stay indoors. We must strengthen enforcement of our existing air quality laws and reduce the amount of toxic pollutants and emissions in our air.

(Applause.)

MS. HALLAM: State funding cuts to Port Authority over the years have resulted in service cuts to too many families who rely on public transit to get to work, the grocery store or local businesses. We as a council must act to make sure our public transit gets everyone where they need to go when they need to be there. And public transit isn't just about transit. It's about the cleaner air from reducing the number of cars on the

street and economic development from small businesses being able to increase the number of customers they can reach.

These are just some of the issues on which we will make progress happen in the coming years. And I wish I could tell you that we're going to do all of this all on day one, but it's just not going to happen. It'll take time, and I don't know what hurdles we'll face as we work together to forge a better government. The one thing I do know is that I won't be able to do it alone. The support of everybody here, even if they disagree with me, is necessary to forge a council that proactively represents all 1.2 million residents of this amazing county. We will disagree on many issues throughout the next four years, but throughout it all, I pledge to be as accessible as possible, and I ask for your support, your scrutiny and most importantly your participation in the democratic progress. Thank you all very much.

(Applause.)

MS. HALLAM: Okay. 11348-20.

MR. BARKER: A Communication from the Allegheny County Board of Elections submitting a Certificate of Election and certifying that at the election held on the 5th day of November, 2019, Samuel DeMarco, III was duly elected to the office of At-Large Member of Council in the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

JUDGE STICKMAN: Sam, are you ready to take the oath?

MR. DEMARCO: Yes, I am.

JUDGE STICKMAN: Okay.

MR. DEMARCO: We've done this before.

JUDGE STICKMAN: Okay. Please raise your right hand and repeat after me. I, Samuel DeMarco, III, ---

MR. DEMARCO: I, Samuel DeMarco, III, ---

JUDGE STICKMAN: --- do solemnly swear ---

MR. DEMARCO: --- do solemnly swear ---

JUDGE STICKMAN: --- that I will faithfully execute the office of member of council of the County of Allegheny ---

MR. DEMARCO: --- that I will faithfully execute the office of member of council of the County of Allegheny ---

JUDGE STICKMAN: --- and will to the best of my ability ---

MR. DEMARCO: --- and will to the best of my ability ---

JUDGE STICKMAN: --- preserve, protect, defend and obey the constitution of the United States ---

MR. DEMARCO: --- preserve, protect, defend and obey the constitution of the United States ---

JUDGE STICKMAN: --- and the constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

MR. DEMARCO: and the constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

JUDGE STICKMAN: Congratulations.

MR. DEMARCO: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

MR. DEMARCO: I'd like to start off by thanking Judge Bill Stickman, one of the newest representatives on the Federal Court of the Western District of Pennsylvania here, who was just ---.

(Applause.)

MR. DEMARCO: His investiture was just less than a month ago. I'd also like to thank all of my supporters and all of the voters who sent me back here for another four years to serve you folks in Allegheny County. And as my colleague said earlier, there are 1.2 million people out there. We're not always going to agree, but what you send us here to do is to work on your behalf to come up with solutions to problems that you face so that we can make your lives better and leave Allegheny County better than we found it when we were sworn in.

When I ran the first time, prior to my coming aboard, I talked to a gentleman from Bethel Park. His name is Tom Mowry. Tim is a former chairman of our AIDS Commission. He's also the president of Bethel Park Council. And I was asking him for a little bit of advice. And he said, Sam, if you walked into Bethel Park Council when it was in session, you wouldn't be able to tell Republicans from the Democrats, because they're just a bunch of folks working together on behalf of the community to try to make it better. That's the attitude that I tried to bring down here to Allegheny County Council. And what I've tried to take and convey over the last four years working with many of my colleagues here. And we've had some considerable accomplishments.

Some of those, just a few of those, include, I mean, for four years we passed on time budgets with no tax increases, which were --- the last one in December was the

18th time over the last 19 years. We refinanced the county's debt without extending it, saving the taxpayers \$26.5 million. We helped create a land bank so that municipalities that wanted to take it and participate would have the ability to take vacant and distressed properties and clear them and put them back on the tax rolls. We helped Wilmerding provide policing so that those people there could live in a safe environment. We passed a stormwater management fee so that our --- or app, so that our municipalities would be able to take and plan appropriately to try to manage stormwater and flooding in their communities. We helped initiate a policy in which we took and passed ---- as the county instituted an HR policy that if you're an employee and you want to come to work for the county, you have to be up to date on your real estate taxes.

We've done these and so much more as we come here today. I'm looking forward to working with my new colleagues on council, with my existing colleagues on council, to do a tremendous number of other great things as we move forward in the next four years. I want to thank you again for your support. I want to thank you again for your time here today. On behalf of all of my colleagues, thank you very much.

(Applause.)

MS. HALLAM: 11349-20.

MR. BARKER: A Communication from the Allegheny County Board of Elections submitting a Certificate of Election and certifying that at the election held on the 5th day of November, 2019, Cindy Kirk was duly elected to the office of District 2 Member of Council in the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

JUDGE STICKMAN: Cindy, are you ready to take your oath?

MS. KIRK: Yes, sir.

JUDGE STICKMAN: Okay. Please repeat after me. I, Cindy Kirk, ---

MS. KIRK: I, Cindy Kirk, ---

JUDGE STICKMAN: --- do solemnly swear ---

MS. KIRK: --- do solemnly swear ---

JUDGE STICKMAN: --- that I will faithfully execute the office ---

MS. KIRK: --- that I will faithfully execute the office ---

JUDGE STICKMAN: --- of member of the county ---
of the council of the County of Allegheny ---

MS. KIRK: --- as member of the council of
Allegheny County ---

JUDGE STICKMAN: --- and will to the best of my
ability ---

MS. KIRK: --- and will to the best of my
ability ---

JUDGE STICKMAN: --- preserve, protect and
defend ---

MS. KIRK: --- preserve, protect and defend ---

JUDGE STICKMAN: --- and obey ---

MS. KIRK: --- and obey ---

JUDGE STICKMAN: --- the constitution ---

MS. KIRK: --- the constitution ---

JUDGE STICKMAN: --- of the United States of
America ---

MS. KIRK: --- of the United States of America -
--

JUDGE STICKMAN: --- and the constitution ---

MS. KIRK: --- and the constitution ---

JUDGE STICKMAN: --- and laws ---

MS. KIRK: --- and laws ---

JUDGE STICKMAN: --- of the Commonwealth of
Pennsylvania.

MS. KIRK: --- of the Commonwealth of
Pennsylvania.

JUDGE STICKMAN: Congratulations.

MS. KIRK: Thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. KIRK: Hi. Like he said, I'm Cindy Kirk out
of District 2. This will be my second term. And first
I'd like to thank Judge Stickman for swearing me in. I
appreciate that. Thank you. And of course, I want to
thank my husband, Bill Kirk, who was there the whole time
for me and has been for many years, and hopefully for many
years in the future. I also would like to send our --- to
thank all my supporters from my district, and as a thank
you to all of you, I'm going to keep this real short,
because you --- you look tired and it's getting warm in
here. With that said, I pledge that I will work my
hardest to obey the constitution and to support all the
constituents that are in my district and throughout the
county. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. HALLAM: 11350-20.

MR. BARKER: A Communication from the Allegheny County Board of Elections submitting a Certificate of Election and certifying that at the election held on the 5th day of November, 2019, Tom Duerr was duly elected to the office of District 5 Member of Council in the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

(Applause.)

JUDGE HOWSIE: Ready to take your oath, sir?

MR. DUERR: I am. Yes.

JUDGE HOWSIE: Do you want to use the mic over here?

MR. DUERR: Sure.

JUDGE HOWSIE: Free style.

MR. DUERR: All right.

JUDGE HOWSIE: Repeat after me. I, ---

MR. DUERR: I, ---

JUDGE HOWSIE: --- Tom Duerr ---

MR. DUERR: --- Tom Duerr ---

JUDGE HOWSIE: --- do solemnly swear or affirm --
--

MR. DUERR: --- do solemnly swear and affirm ---

JUDGE HOWSIE: --- that I will faithfully
execute ---

MR. DUERR: --- that I will faithfully execute --
--

JUDGE HOWSIE: --- the office ---

MR. DUERR: --- the office ---

JUDGE HOWSIE: --- of member of council ---

MR. DUERR: --- of member of council ---

JUDGE HOWSIE: --- of the County of Allegheny --
-

MR. DUERR: --- of the County of Allegheny ---

JUDGE HOWSIE: --- and will to the best of my
ability ---

MR. DUERR: --- and will to the best of my
ability ---

JUDGE HOWSIE: --- preserve, ---

MR. DUERR: --- preserve, ---

JUDGE HOWSIE: --- protect, ---

MR. DUERR: --- protect, ---

JUDGE HOWSIE: --- defend and obey ---

MR. DUERR: --- defend and obey ---

JUDGE HOWSIE: --- the constitution of the
United States ---

MR. DUERR: --- the constitution of the United States ---

JUDGE HOWSIE: --- and the constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

MR. DUERR: --- and the constitution --- I'm sorry --- the constitution ---

JUDGE HOWSIE: --- and the laws ---

MR. DUERR: --- and the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

JUDGE HOWSIE: Congratulations.

MR. DUERR: Thank you so much.

JUDGE HOWSIE: One of the most important things you need to remember as a member of council, in the words of Judge Dauer, blessed are the brief.

MR. DUERR: All right. I will keep this as brief as possible. I have a lot of people to thank, so I will do so very quickly. First off, thank you, Judge Howsie, for being here and for swearing me in. It means a great deal.

Very quickly, I have a list of people. So first off, I'd like to thank my predecessor, Councilwoman Means, for her service to the community and Council District 5. Although we might disagree on some things, I would like to thank her for her service to the community, and I thank her for helping me transition over --- for me coming in the office these past couple months. I would like ---.

(Applause.)

MR. DUERR: Next, I would like to thank the County Executive, Rich Fitzgerald, for his support and guidance over these past few months. County Executive, it's meant a tremendous amount for me to have your support, but also your guidance when it comes to understanding the depth that the issues the people of Allegheny County face. I look forward to working with you and the rest of council over the next four years. So thank you very much.

I'd like to thank my two former bosses, Congressman Conor Lamb and Senator Pam Iovino for their --- for their support and their guidance as well over the last few months with me running. It means more to me than they'll ever know. I'd like to thank some of our labor unions who supported me and all organized labor across Southwestern Pennsylvania, including the KML Carpenters, the Labor District Council of Western Pennsylvania, IBEW Local Number 5, Operating Engineers Local 66, and Council

President Darren Kelly, for their support. And I pledge once again to be a strong voice for organized labor and the working men and women of Allegheny County on County Council.

Some of the other elected officials who I'd like to thank, Congressman Mike Doyle, State Representative Dan Miller, State Representative Austin Davis, State Senator Jay Costa, for all their support and words of wisdom throughout my campaign. My campaign staff, I'd like to give a shoutout to them as well. Lucas Bezerra, my campaign manager. Nick Konkula, my field director. I cannot thank enough --- them enough for all the time they put in to help me get where I am today. And lastly, just a list of volunteers and folks who were a huge benefit to me both emotionally and in the grounds, Larissa Sweitzer, DJ Ryan, Tim Cauley, Julie Hallen and Alex Franco, Sydney Joseph, Sean Harrington, Bob Recklein, Will Ament, Adrienne Godish, Grace DuBois, Alexis Azimuth, Madison Jones, Maria O'Matz, Matt Preston, Matt Yapp, Anna Batista, Mikey Reidy, Sharon Gweedy, Elaine Kramer, Elaine Giarrusso, Chris Brower, Marianne Ramer, Vince Scalzo, Kristen Wessel and Britt Meidenbauer. Thank you all so much for your support and your tireless efforts helping me stand up here today.

The last few people I'd like to thank, my girlfriend, Viola Garis, who I would not have survived the last couple weeks without her. And, of course, my parents who I would not be here today without their sacrifice and support in making me the man I am today. So thank you guys very much for that.

I stand here incredibly humbled by the people of District 5. I am only 24 years old, but as you'll find out very quickly, I am not here to just fill an empty seat for four years. I'm here to do some really good things for the people of this county. And as my profession has taught me, there isn't anything more pure than going door to door, learning about the issues that people face, and doing your best to fix them. And that's what I'm here to do. So I thank you all for the warm welcome you've show me here over these past few months, and I cannot wait to get to work with our county executive and our fellow councilmembers to make this county a better place for everyone. Thank you all very much.

(Applause.)

MS. HALLAM: 11351-20.

MR. BARKER: A Communication from the Allegheny County Board of Elections submitting a Certificate of Election and certifying that at the election held on the 5th day of November, 2019, John F. Palmiere was duly elected to the office of District 6 Member of Council in the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

(Applause.)

JUDGE REGAN: Good evening. I'm Judge Dan Regan and it's an honor for me to have been asked to swear in Councilman Palmiere. He's such a dedicated public servant, and I wish him the best of luck as he continues to serve the residents of District 6 and the residents of Allegheny County.

MR. PALMIERE: Thank you.

JUDGE REGAN: So Councilman, without further adieu, repeat after me. I, John F. Palmiere, ---

MR. PALMIERE: I, John f. Palmiere, ---

JUDGE REGAN: --- do solemnly swear ---

MR. PALMIERE: --- do solemnly swear ---

JUDGE REGAN: --- that I will faithfully execute

MR. PALMIERE: --- that I will faithfully execute ---

JUDGE REGAN: --- the office of member of council of the County of Allegheny ---

MR. PALMIERE: Do that again --- the office of member ---

JUDGE REGAN: --- of council of the County of Allegheny ---

MR. PALMIERE: --- of council of the County of Allegheny ---

JUDGE REGAN: That's a tough one. And will do -- and will to the best of my ability ---

MR. PALMIERE: --- and will do to the best of my ability ---

JUDGE REGAN: --- preserve, protect, defend and obey ---

MR. PALMIERE: --- preserve, protect, defend and obey ---

JUDGE REGAN: --- the constitution of the United States ---

MR. PALMIERE: --- the constitution of the United States ---

JUDGE REGAN: --- and the constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

MR. PALMIERE: --- and the constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

JUDGE REGAN: Congratulations, Councilman Palmiere.

(Applause.)

MR. PALMIERE: We're going to pretend that this is Sunday morning at church. It's 90 degrees and the air conditioner just broke. So I'm going to make this brief. I want to --- first of all, I want to thank my family for staying with me all these years. My wife, who couldn't be here today --- unfortunately she's been having a real difficult time lately. And I want to thank my members of my campaign committee, my campaign manager. They've done a wonderful job. And there's no I in team, ladies and gentlemen. Nobody can stand up here alone and say they did it themselves. That's not going to ever happen. I've had nothing but wonderful help and cooperation through all these years, and I want to thank the people of District 6 for voting me in again for a third time. Bless all of you and I promise you, in place of you I am here basically to serve and not to be self serving. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

MS. HALLAM: 11352-20.

MR. BARKER: A Communication from the Allegheny County Board of Elections submitting a Certificate of Election and certifying that at the election held on the 5th day of November, 2019, Nick Futules was duly elected to the office of District 7 Member of Council in the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

(Applause.)

MR. FUTULES: Make sure I can read it all right.

JUDGE IGNELZI: Sure. We'll leave it right there and we'll go at a measured pace.

MR. FUTULES: Okay.

JUDGE IGNELZI: All right. You hold that.

MR. FUTULES: Oh.

JUDGE IGNELZI: No, you want to hold it with your left hand, put your left hand and raise your right hand. There you go. All right. Repeat after me. I, Nick Futules, ---

MR. FUTULES: I, Nick Futules, ---

JUDGE IGNELZI: --- do solemnly swear ---

MR. FUTULES: --- do solemnly swear ---

JUDGE IGNELZI: --- that I will faithfully execute ---

MR. FUTULES: --- that I will faithfully execute

JUDGE IGNELZI: --- the office of member of
council ---
MR. FUTULES: --- the office of member of
council ---
JUDGE IGNELZI: --- of the County of Allegheny -
--
MR. FUTULES: --- of the County of Allegheny ---
JUDGE IGNELZI: --- and will to the best of my
ability ---
MR. FUTULES: --- and will to the best of my
ability ---
JUDGE IGNELZI: --- preserve, ---
MR. FUTULES: --- preserve, ---
JUDGE IGNELZI: --- protect, ---
MR. FUTULES: --- protect, ---
JUDGE IGNELZI: --- defend and obey ---
MR. FUTULES: --- defend and obey ---
JUDGE IGNELZI: --- the constitution of the
United States ---
MR. FUTULES: --- the constitution of the United
States ---
JUDGE IGNELZI: --- and the constitution ---
MR. FUTULES: --- and the constitution ---
JUDGE IGNELZI: --- and the laws of the
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
MR. FUTULES: --- and the laws of the
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
JUDGE IGNELZI: Nick, congratulations.
MR. FUTULES: Thank you.
(Applause.)
MR. FUTULES: Thank you. I had a choice tonight
between eenie, miny or moe, so I picked moe. Actually his
name is Phil. Thank you, Judge.
Well, tonight, I stood here 12 years ago. It's
been a long time. I think I was elected December the 7th,
2007. I'm pretty sure I came in on a special election.
And about two and a half hours after I was elected, I was
asked to vote for the drink tax. By the way, for those of
you who don't know me, I have a liquor license. That
wasn't going to happen. For days, Rich Fitzgerald was
pretty mad at me and Dan Onorato still isn't talking to
me. I was a pretty big advocate for not using the drink
tax, but as you see, we did.

I spent the first four years on this county council learning. People like Richard helped me. I heard the controller for four years tell us that our fund balance was shrinking every year, on the average of \$10 million. After the fourth year we were down to a \$5 million balance. When Dan Onorato left office and before Rich had come in, this council with myself, John Palmiere and Bob Macey, the three of us, we had to vote for a millage increase. Didn't want to, but we had to to save the county.

Ever since Rich Fitzgerald has taken office, this county had moved forward. Our fund balance is over \$55 million now. Our bond rating is the best it's been since 1983. We've paved more roads. We've fixed more bridges. And --- and --- and parks, we have done a tremendous job in redoing our parks. We're building a new airport.

This council in the last eight years has moved forward with the Chief Executive, and other members of this region, our State Representatives, our Senators, our Congressmen, our local municipality mayors and council people. Not one person, not one, can make a difference. It takes a team. It takes cooperation. This I hear from Rich all the time.

Now, in the news, every so often, we're called rubber stamps. Well, I must be guilty, because if moving this county forward and making this one of the best regions in the United States, you can call me the rubber band man, because that's what I am. I'm moving this county forward. Except for DeMarco. He calls me the gum band man, because that's a Pittsburgh tradition, the gum band.

Okay?

So cooperation, rubber stamp, call it whatever you want. I call it cooperation and moving this county forward, making it a great place for our children to live, to raise their families, and have a great job. That's what we're all about here. We care about our children, and that's why we love the County of Allegheny. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. HALLAM: 11353-20.

MR. BARKER: A Communication from the Allegheny County Board of Elections submitting a Certificate of Election and certifying that at the election held on the

5th day of November, 2019, Paul Zavarella was duly elected to the office of District 8 Member of Council in the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

(Applause.)

JUDGE IGNELZI: I'm just going to say a brief word. The reason I haven't given a speech, as Paul told me, The reason I haven't given a speech is Paul told me, you're going to swear in Nick, but I'm worried that you're going to start telling stories. I've known him since '74. We went to college together, so everything's off limits.

All right. Paul, if you would place your left hand on the Bible and raise your right hand, and repeat after me. I, Paul Zavarella, ---

MR. ZAVARELLA: I, Paul Zavarella, ---

JUDGE IGNELZI: --- do solemnly swear ---

MR. ZAVARELLA: --- do solemnly swear ---

JUDGE IGNELZI: --- that I will faithfully execute ---

MR. ZAVARELLA: --- that I will faithfully execute ---

JUDGE IGNELZI: --- the office of member of council ---

MR. ZAVARELLA: --- the office of member of council of the County of Allegheny ---

JUDGE IGNELZI: --- and will to the best of my ability ---

MR. ZAVARELLA: --- and will to the best of my ability ---

JUDGE IGNELZI: --- preserve, protect, defend, -
--

MR. ZAVARELLA: --- preserve, protect and defend

JUDGE IGNELZI: --- and obey ---

MR. ZAVARELLA: --- and obey ---

JUDGE IGNELZI: --- the constitution of the United States ---

MR. ZAVARELLA: --- the constitution of the United States ---

JUDGE IGNELZI: --- and the constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

MR. ZAVARELLA: --- and the constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

JUDGE IGNELZI: Congratulations.

MR. ZAVARELLA: Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. ZAVARELLA: Thank you, Judge Ignelzi. I thank you for swearing me in, and more importantly, I value your friendship. Members of the bench, County Executive Fitzgerald, my fellow county councilmembers, all of you in attendance tonight, first off, I'd like to thank my many supporters. Some of you are here tonight, and those that could not have made it, I would not be standing before you and this body without your support, guidance and direction that I truly value and appreciate. I'm very humbled to stand before the audience here tonight and this body.

I have some very large shoes to fill in Dr. Martoni. I was elected to fulfill the remaining two years of his term. And I can only hope that I do half the job that Dr. Martoni did representing the constituents of the 8th District, as well as the entire County of Allegheny.

The next couple years will be crucial to the county, and I hope that I can participate in moving the county forward under the direction of the Chief Executive, as well as my other members of council. Judge Howsie quoted Judge Dauer who said blessed are the brief, so I'm going to thank everyone again. I look forward to working with all of you. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. HALLAM: 11354-20.

MR. BARKER: A Communication from the Allegheny County Board of Elections submitting a Certificate of Election and certifying that at the election held on the 5th day of November, 2019, DeWitt Walton was duly elected to the office of District 10 Member of Council in the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

(Applause.)

JUDGE: Please raise your right hand. And repeat after me.

MR. WALTON: Yes, sir.

JUDGE: I, DeWitt Walton, ---

MR. WALTON: I, DeWitt Walton, ---

JUDGE: --- do solemnly swear ---

MR. WALTON: --- do solemnly swear ---

JUDGE: --- that I will faithfully execute ---

MR. WALTON: --- that I will faithfully execute

JUDGE: --- the office of member of council ---

MR. WALTON: --- the office of member of council

JUDGE: --- of the County of Allegheny ---
MR. WALTON: --- of the County of Allegheny ---
JUDGE: --- and will do, to the best of my
ability ---
MR. WALTON: --- and will do, to the best of my
ability ---
JUDGE: --- preserve, protect ---
MR. WALTON: --- to preserve and protect ---
JUDGE: --- defend and obey ---
MR. WALTON: --- defend and obey ---
JUDGE: --- the constitution of the United
States ---
MR. WALTON: --- the constitution of the United
States ---
JUDGE: --- and the constitution and laws ---
MR. WALTON: --- and the constitution and laws -
--
JUDGE: --- of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
MR. WALTON: --- of the Commonwealth of
Pennsylvania.
JUDGE: Congratulations.
(Applause.)
MR. WALTON: Four years ago, I was privileged to
stand here and have my friend and my magistrate swear me
in. I am privileged again to have that occur tonight.
And I'm forever indebted, and I'll come pick some peaches
off your tree this summer.
But --- but on a real note, 52 years ago today,
52 years ago today, I had the privilege and honor of being
present of the swearing in of Richard Gordon Hatcher, the
first African-American Mayor of a first class city. I've
spent many Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in
Mayor Hatcher's basement learning politics, understanding
that you don't give in, you don't give up and you don't
give out. If you believe that you're right, if you
believe that something is worth fighting for, you'll go to
work and battle every day.
Four years ago, I came to this council, and my
job was to learn. But little did I know that I would soon
be enmeshed in a host of issues that I needed to find
allies with. I'm privileged to say that Allegheny County
is much like Lake County, rife with pollution. And you
don't shut down jobs that feed our families every day.
You force the companies to address pollution in a
constructive way. You can have both a clean environment

and good jobs. That's what's going on in Allegheny County. Because of the leadership of the public Allegheny County Health Department, U.S. Steel is being forced to reduce pollution and to pay fines. And we're going to use --- I'm going to work as a legislator to push for money that is being paid in fines in the Clean Air Fund to reduce or eliminate a food desert in Clairton. There are folks down there living in poverty and can't get fresh fruit. That has to end. That has to end. I'm going to work with the executive and council to do everything in my power to make that happen.

This council should work in alliance as legislators to address the issue of mass incarceration in Allegheny County.

(Applause.)

MR. WALTON: Four months ago --- four months ago, I had hoped that I could be President of Council. That's not going to happen. I understand it. But again, I'm not giving up, I'm not giving out, and I'm not giving in. There are members still sitting here on council that voted against an independent police review board. They're going to see it again.

(Applause.)

MR. WALTON: I'm telling you don't get caught up in the hype, fellow council members. There are people that want to be leaders in this county, and there are --- and leaders of this council that voted against that. If you do it, you're a damn fool. I'm telling you. I'm going to hold people's feet to the fire just like you hold mine. Accountability, responsibility and integrity is the byword. Let's roll.

(Applause.)

MS. HALLAM: 11355-20.

MR. BARKER: A Communication from the Allegheny County Board of Elections submitting a Certificate of Election and certifying that at the election held on the 5th day of November, 2019, Paul Klein was duly elected to the office of District 11 Member of Council in the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

(Applause.)

JUDGE HENS-GRECO: Good evening, everyone. I'm Judge Kathryn Hens-Greco, and it is such a delight to be here. I just can't tell you how I feel the energy in this room. Of all the people that worked so hard to make sure that government works well. I've worked with many of you

and it's just a delight to feel it in the room and to know that all of you worked hard to get your council people elected. So thank you very much for all your work.

(Applause.)

JUDGE HENS-GRECO: And now it's my --- it's my great pleasure to swear in my very good friend, Paul Klein. And I just want you to know a little bit about him. From many conversations I've had with Paul, Paul listens very closely. Paul is thoughtful about considering his opinions, and he responds with a clarity of conviction in a transparent way, and is exceptionally trustworthy. Paul's principles have been forged by years of study and experience, and his legislative actions over the past four years have been a testament to living out and acting on his ethical beliefs of justice and fairness. And he is unafraid to be transparent in that process. That's what integrity is about, being transparent in the process. So that's why today I am honored to administer the oath of office to my friend, Paul Klein.

(Applause.)

JUDGE HENS-GRECO: I, Paul Klein, ---

MR. KLEIN: I, Paul Klein, ---

JUDGE HENS-GRECO: --- do solemnly swear or affirm ---

MR. KLEIN: --- do solemnly swear or affirm ---

JUDGE HENS-GRECO: --- that I will faithfully execute the office of member of council ---

MR. KLEIN: --- that I will faithfully execute the office of member of council ---

JUDGE HENS-GRECO: --- of the County of Allegheny ---

MR. KLEIN: --- of the County of Allegheny ---

JUDGE HENS-GRECO: --- and will, to the best of my ability, ---

MR. KLEIN: --- and will, to the best of my ability ---

JUDGE HENS-GRECO: --- preserve and protect ---

MR. KLEIN: --- preserve and protect ---

JUDGE HENS-GRECO: --- defend and obey the constitution of the United States ---

MR. KLEIN: --- defend and obey the constitution of the United States ---

JUDGE HENS-GRECO: --- and the constitution and the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

MR. KLEIN: --- and the constitution and the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

JUDGE HENS-GRECO: Congratulations.

(Applause.)

MR. KLEIN: Thank you. Thank you very much. Four years ago when I took the oath of office, I had a few remarks to offer or to share. And when I completed those, you know, a couple of hours later, I went back to the bench and John Palmiere, Councilman Palmiere, was waiting for me. And I thought he was waiting to greet me and congratulate me, and what he said to me has stayed with me since then. And he said I thought you'd never shut up. So tonight I'm going to go for three hours. So just a --- just a few remarks.

And --- and let me begin, first of all, by thanking all of you for being here today, and for thanking so many of you for your support and your confidence and your encouragement, and lots and lots of advice and counsel. And it's something that I really value. It has always been important to me. And I know that it's something that I can count on, and I --- I really rely on that in no small way.

I'd like to thank my --- I'd like to thank my --- my family who is here tonight. My wife, Holly. My daughter, Laura. My son-in-law, but he's really our only son. And our two grandchildren, Jack and Ava. And also our good friends Howard, Fred, Sherry and Laura. Thank you very much for being here tonight.

(Applause.)

MR. KLEIN: So let's --- let's get through this. Friends, Romans --- oh.

Okay.

And so the new year and the new decade are upon us. Over the holidays, my wife and I renewed our vows. That's right. We bought a new mattress. As we gather here this evening as both newly elected officials and those like myself who have been returned to office to try once again to get it right, we, too, are taking a vow as we take our oath of office. Our oath requires that as elected representatives we will fulfill our duty to preserve and protect the Constitution of the United States and the laws and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Our vow to you, the electorate, the people, is to be faithful to the commitments that we have made to

you, that we might prove worthy of your trust and confidence.

The ritual that you are witnessing this evening is one that is playing out in government councils across the country, councils large and small, in townships, boroughs, and even villages. And as witnesses and committed citizens, you, too, are making a vow, a vow to hold us accountable. And you do that by being informed and engaged, and as elected representatives, we need that to do our jobs well.

There's a lot of energy in this room tonight, maybe a little bit too much. And --- and it's kind of scary. After all, with this election in this county, we are witnessing a generational shift in some measure on Council.

(Applause.)

MR. KLEIN: Although, I should tell you that Councilman Baker, I believe he just turned 40 this year, so you know, he's on the edge there, but don't believe it. He's actually 78 years old. He went to preschool with Bernie Sanders at the Eugene V. Debs preschool. He never read anything. Bernie did.

With this election, we are witnessing a generational shift on council. The people who have spoken, and now --- the people here have spoken, and now we must adjust our hearing aids so that you might be heard. Okay. Many gathered in this room tonight are my constituents, and I believe that I have the good fortune to represent many of the most thoughtful, engaged, committed and vocal people in this state, and maybe on this planet. As a result of the tireless efforts of so many people in this room, our council increasingly --- our council knows that increasingly there is much work that still needs to be done. But this council today reflects a growing diversity. There's still work to do, but a growing diversity in terms of our racial, ethnic and socioeconomic makeup.

As a result of this --- as a result of this, election expectations are very high indeed, and we don't want to blow it. We want to make sure that all voices are heard and that all of our citizens have a meaningful opportunity to participate in what this region has to offer today and moving forward. Of course, we have our challenges, and as a council, we will work hard to measure up. We will make mistakes. We will stumble and sometimes

we will disappoint, but we will not stop trying to prove ourselves worthy of your confidence.

In the great and tragic American play, Death of a Salesman, Willy Loman, who I can relate to because my father was a salesman, let's out a woeful plea, born of frustration, of a fear of being overlooked, the fear of being forgotten. Attention must be paid to this man, he says, attention must be paid. Well, you've got our attention. Thank you very much for the opportunity to serve you.

(Applause.)

MS. HALLAM: 11356-20.

MR. BARKER: A Communication from the Allegheny County Board of Elections submitting a Certificate of Election and certifying that at the election held on the 5th day of November, 2019, Olivia Bennett was duly elected to the office of District 13 Member of Council in the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

(Applause.)

JUDGE CLARK: Good evening, everyone. I am Kim Berkeley Clark, and I have the pleasure of serving as your President Judge for the 5th Judicial District, and I am humbled and honored and privileged to administer the oath of office to Olivia Bennett. Olivia, I'm so proud of you. When I look at you, you bring a much needed diversity to our county council. And I --- I would just ask you to remember a couple of things as you serve in your capacity as a county councilwoman. One, just always be kind. You know, in this day and age, when I turn on the news and I see so many things, people just screaming at each other and saying mean things, it serves no purpose, it's negative energy, and it's so much nicer to be kind. Always treat others with dignity and respect, the dignity and respect with which you would like to be treated. It will serve you well. Be a good public servant. And remember that's really what you are. It's what I am, and I think about it every day. I am a public servant and I'm here to serve the taxpayers who pay my salary. Always remember who you serve and work for them.

Find common ground. Although you may have belonged to different political parties, have different backgrounds, you have common ground with your fellow county councilmembers. You all have a singular purpose, and that's to do what's best for the citizens of Allegheny County. You might have different ways of trying to go

about it, but find that common ground. It will serve you well. And lastly, just work hard. Have that strong work ethic. It's what our taxpayers deserve. And remember, you work for them and you need to act like it and hold yourself accountable to them. If you remember these things, you'll be outstanding, and I know you will. So I'm very proud of you, and at this time, I would like to administer to oath of office to you. So if you would raise your right hand and repeat after me. I, Olivia Bennett, ---

MS. BENNETT: I, Olivia Bennett, ---

JUDGE CLARK: --- do solemnly swear ---

MS. BENNETT: --- do solemnly swear ---

JUDGE CLARK: --- that I will faithfully execute the office ---

MS. BENNETT: --- that I will faithfully execute the office ---

JUDGE CLARK: --- of member of council ---

MS. BENNETT: --- of member of council ---

JUDGE CLARK: --- of the County of Allegheny ---

MS. BENNETT: --- of the County of Allegheny ---

JUDGE CLARK: --- and I will, to the best of my ability ---

MS. BENNETT: --- and I will, to the best of my ability ---

JUDGE CLARK: --- preserve and protect ---

MS. BENNETT: --- preserve and protect ---

JUDGE CLARK: --- defend and obey ---

MS. BENNETT: --- defend and obey ---

JUDGE CLARK: --- the constitution of the United States ---

MS. BENNETT: --- the constitution of the United States ---

JUDGE CLARK: --- and the constitution and laws ---

MS. BENNETT: --- and the constitution and laws ---

JUDGE CLARK: --- of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

MS. BENNETT: --- of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

JUDGE CLARK: Congratulations.

(Applause.)

MS. BENNETT: Thank you all so much for being here. First, I want to thank Judge Kim Clark for agreeing

to swear me in. As the first African-American woman President Judge of Allegheny County, no other judge seemed more appropriate to swear me in. I look forward to working with you on matters surrounding the jail and many other initiatives. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. BENNETT: I have to thank God from whom all blessings flow. Without his grace and mercy, a black teenage mom from Manchester and now living in North View would not be standing here before you today. A huge thank you to my husband, Terrence. Thank you, baby, for seeing the vision even before I did. Thank you for always believing in me and going all in to make sure I'm living out God's path for me. Thank you for being a servant leader, even when I do not recognize it, which is a lot. I love you. Thank you to my kids, Renee, Raquel, Donald, III, and Dominick. And special shout out to my grandbabies, Aiden, Alaya and Hope, who I think this is her first outing today. She's new.

So I thank you --- I thank my kids, and a special shout out to my oldest daughter, Renee, who always steps up and supports me even if she doesn't know what it fully entails. She was my campaign treasurer and was --- had no idea what that meant, but she did it anyway. So thank you, Renee. I love you. Thank you for all the trips to the election office for me that you made and the questions you asked and the answers that you received on my behalf. Also, thank you to my family near and far who donated money, called friends to donate, and gave support and love from as far away as California. I love you all, Team Bennett.

Thank you to my campaign team. Arielle Evers was here. She recently got married. Becky Boll, G.L. Johnson and Renee Betters, I cannot even express how incredibly lucky I am to be blessed with such an awesome team. Your belief in me was felt, and it motivated me to push towards the victory. Our campaign was women, people of color and working class led. I could not be more proud of that and our team. I can't wait to see what other amazing candidates you propel in the future.

Thank you to my church family at the mighty Macedonia Church of Pittsburgh, and my senior pastor, Brian Edmonds. Thank you for all of your encouragement, prayers, lessons and direction, and I am counting on your prayers to carry me through this season. Special shout

out to my circle of prayer warriors who have carried me through many seasons of this journey. Thank you to my fellow council members, especially my running mate, Bethany Hallam, ---

(Applause.)

MS. BENNETT: --- who I am so honored to have as a valued and trusted friend and sister. I look forward to shaking up council with you. Also, a special thanks to Anita Prizio, a very early supporter of my campaign.

(Applause.)

MS. BENNETT: And I would be remiss if I did not thank State Representative Summer Lee and Fawn Walker Montgomery for always being available and sisters in the political activism world. I love you both.

Finally and lastly, I want to thank each and every supporter of the Liv Bennett campaign, especially those from District 13. Every endorsing body, every canvasser, everyone who donated money, time, resources, encouragement, spread the word, and every other action that got us to today. I appreciate each and every one of you. I look forward to representing Allegheny County and specifically District 13 with the heart of a servant leader. One of my favorite books states that the greatest among us will be a servant, so I end by asking how may I serve you? Thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. HALLAM: May we have a roll call?

MR. BARKER: Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Here.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Catena?

MR. CATENA: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Duerr?

MR. DUERR: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Here.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk?

MS. KIRK: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmosina?

MR. PALMOSINA: Here.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Prizio?

MS. PRIZIO: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?

MR. WALTON: Present.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Zavarella?

MR. ZAVARELLA: Here.

MR. BARKER: And Ms. Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: Here.

MR. BARKER: Okay.

MS. HALLAM: I will now entertain nominations for council president.

MR. MACEY: Madam Chair?

MS. HALLAM: Councilman Macey?

MR. MACEY: Thank you. Being the senior person now on council, I don't know if that's a good thing or not, I may be on my way out, but on the other hand, it's my honor and privilege to nominate Patrick Catena as council president.

MR. PALMIERE: Madam Chair, I second that motion.

MR. DUERR: Madam Chair?

MS. HALLAM: Councilman Duerr?

MR. DUERR: Thank you. First off, I'd like to thank all of the council members who reached out to me to, you know, express their vision of what they would like --- what their vision would be as council president. There was one name that stood out to me the most, and I'm honored to nominate him tonight. I'd like to nominate Councilman Paul Klein for president.

(Applause.)

MR. FUTULES: I'll second it. I think we need ---.

MS. HALLAM: Are there any other nominations? All right. Let's vote.

MR. FUTULES: Madam President? I believe you're president at this time. I'm not sure.

MS. HALLAM: Okay.

MR. FUTULES: Or whatever. You're running the show. Okay. I'd like to make a motion that we hear from each candidate before we vote. I would like to hear what they have to say.

MR. PALMOSINA: Second. Seems fair.

MR. FUTULES: Do --- do we vote on that or ---?

MS. HALLAM: Okay. Let's vote on the motion.

Roll call vote.

MR. BARKER: On the motion to hear from both candidates, Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Catena?

MR. CATENA: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Duerr?

MR. DUERR: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk?

MS. KIRK: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmosina?

MR. PALMOSINA: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Prizio?

MS. PRIZIO: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?

MR. WALTON: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Zavarella?

MR. ZAVARELLA: Yes.

MR. BARKER: And Ms. Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Motion passed unanimously.

MS. HALLAM: So we'll go in the order that they were nominated. So Councilman Catena will be first.

MR. WALTON: One moment, Madam President. Can we put a time limit on their --- on the speech?

MR. PALMIERE: Yeah, you got the three minute timer?

MR. BARKER: Are we going three minutes?

MS. HALLAM: Three-minute time limit.

MR. BARKER: At your discretion.

MR. CATENA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'll keep this short and sweet because I know it's warm in here and we have a lot of people. Over the past few years that I've been on county council, I believe we need to be an inclusive, transparent council that basically addresses all of the citizens' and taxpayers' concerns. It's you, the people of Allegheny County, that we basically work for each and every one of you on a daily basis. And the only way we can do that is by working together. Whether you're a Democrat, whether you're a Republican, whether you're right, whether you're left, we need to come together as a council because we have a lot of business that needs to be done for all of Allegheny County. And whether I'm elected this evening or not, I give you my pledge that I will work with Councilman Klein and the rest of my colleagues in order to move Allegheny County forward with the Chief Executive. Thank you, Madam President.

MS. HALLAM: Councilman Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Thank you, Madam President. Several months ago at a --- at a gathering which included several of my council colleagues who are currently with us tonight, Leo Gerard, the then President of the United Steelworkers, International President of the United Steelworkers, shared a thought. It was something that I had heard before, but no doubt in a different context. And it's something that was said by the poet Maya Angelou. He said this. He said when someone tells you who they are, believe them. But I have often thought that sometimes the better measure of who a person is is what they do. My colleague, Anita Prizio, and I are hoping to represent council as President and Vice President, and to provide leadership that is grounded in what we have done, what we have worked on to accomplish, and what we continue to be committed to doing, in representing the people of Allegheny County.

Christmas is over and the wish lists have been put away. And to be clear, we will not be able to make all of your dreams come true. But I think we both have a sense of what matters to people here, and really everywhere. People want to be able to provide for themselves and their families, and preferably without having to work three jobs. Thank you, Darrin Kelly, Jack Shea, Johnny Vento and all of organized labor for working toward that goal. People want to live in communities where they are not isolated from the basic amenities of

life. They don't want to live out their days on what are effectively transportation and food deserts. People want to live and raise their families in a physical environment where the simple act of inhaling and exhaling is not a life compromising event.

People want to live in a place in which fairness and equity are not reserved for the few, but the many. People want to call a place home where their prospects for a better life, a better future, are not determined by their race, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual identity, and how they choose to express it, by their religion, or by the perceived challenges that they might face by being viewed as disabled.

People want to live in a place in which voting is viewed with the sanctity it deserves, as a fundamental right that is too often taken for granted, and that means removing obstacles to voting and ensuring broad participation in the election process. And people want to live in a place in which the most vulnerable among us will not be relegated to living in life's shadows. The people of Allegheny County delivered a message in November and it was loud and clear. The status quo is not acceptable. This council must assume its place as a representative body that is willing to take the risks involved in charting a different course. We now have among us members who have been highly critical of us, but I view --- but I view that criticism as a challenge, a challenge to do better.

And really an optimistic note --- really on an optimistic note, a belief that we can do better and that we have the capacity to do better. Toward that end, as council president, I will work with my colleagues to reclaim our identity as a body with specific accountabilities that are bound up in the commitments that we have made to the people of the county. We will live up to our institutional responsibilities as a co-equal branch of government. As we enter this new season, everything will be on the table. We will evaluate the committee structure and the processes by which we conduct business. We will not shirk our responsibility to have difficult conversations and together we will identify our priorities, both legislative and non-legislative, in order to move forward in honoring the commitments that we have made to the public.

Let's not allow narrow parochial interests, hidden agendas, political rivalries long and deep and carefully nurtured grudges, and unrestrained political ambitions, to derail our best efforts and diminish the nobility of our undertaking as elected officials. I respectfully ask for your support as president of Allegheny County Council to ensure as best I can that our ideals and higher purposes will always carry the day. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

MS. HALLAM: May we now have a roll call vote?

MR. BARKER: On the two nominees. Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Councilman Catena.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Baker votes for Councilman Catena. Ms. Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: Councilman Catena.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Bennett votes for Council Member Catena. Mr. Catena?

MR. CATENA: Myself.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Catena votes for Council member Catena. Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Councilman Pat Catena.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco votes for Councilman Catena. Mr. Duerr?

MR. DUERR: Councilman Paul Klein.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Duerr votes for Councilman Klein. Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Klein.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules votes for Councilman Klein. Ms. Kirk?

MS. KIRK: Councilman Catena.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk votes for Councilman Catena. Mr. Klein?

MR. KLEIN: How about three? How about me, myself and I? Klein.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein votes for Councilman Klein. Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Councilman Catena.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey votes for Councilman Catena. Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Councilman Catena.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere votes for Councilman Catena. Mr. Palmosina?

MR. PALMOSINA: Councilman Catena.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmosina votes for Councilman Catena. Ms. Prizio?

MS. PRIZIO: Councilman Klein.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Prizio votes for Councilman Klein. Mr. Walton?

MR. WALTON: Before I cast my vote, I have --- I have a statement to make. When council voted on a replacement for Dr. Martoni, every candidate that appeared that night to ask for my support at council, at the council interview, I had a litmus test. And the litmus test was very clear and very simple. Will you vote to support an independent police review board? If you couldn't answer that question in an affirmative, I was not going to give you my --- consider giving you my support. Mr. Catena voted against the independent police review board. His nominator voted against the independent police review board. I'm laying down a marker. If you're against the independent police review board, then I'm against you now. Paul Klein.

(Applause.)

MR. CATENA: Madam President, may I have a chance to respond?

MR. FUTULES: We're not done voting.

MS. HALLAM: Let's continue the vote.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton casts his vote for Councilman Klein. Mr. Zavarella?

MR. ZAVARELLA: Councilman Patrick Catena.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Zavarella votes for Mr. Catena. And Ms. Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: Councilman Catena.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Hallam votes for Councilmember Catena. Mr. Catena is elected council president.

MS. PRIZIO: Didn't you just announce it?

MR. FUTULES: What?

MS. PRIZIO: Yeah, he just announced it.

MR. FUTULES: Yes, Catena won.

MR. BARKER: Yes.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you, everyone. If I can have your attention for ---. Tonight, obviously, begins a new decade for county council. I'm humbled to be your new county council president, and I'm very good --- Paul, I support Paul, and I'm Paul's friend, and I will continue to be Paul's friend and work with him on all of

his initiatives because they mean a lot to me. So thank you. Thank you for your friendship, Mr. Klein.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: I personally want to thank the sage wisdom of all of our senior members, and the zeal and fervor that our newly elected officials bring to the table. Working together, we can truly accomplish anything. I would also like to thank Labor, especially my good friend Darrin Kelly, my friends --- friend of many years, Treasurer John Weinstein, State Representative Anita Kulik, my family and most importantly all of the residents of District 4 and all of Allegheny County.

County Council is truly at a crossroads. In the past, we have been accused of only giving proclamations. Yes, Tom Baker, I am referring to you.

MR. FUTULES: He's guilty.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Or at times we've been called a rubber stamp of the Chief Executive. As we look towards the future, I expect this to be a collaborative effort between us and the Executive Branch, as it has been in the past, but there is always room for improvement. Keep in mind as you look into the eyes and faces to those to the right or left of me, these are motivated, dedicated public servants that want to dig in and get on with the work of the county. And being a rubber stamp hasn't suited past council, nor will it suit the council of 2020. Yes, it's true, we have many topics that need addressed and some unfinished business from 2019 that will be priorities this year. And I am sure my colleagues will be introducing some of these measures over the next few weeks.

One such order of business tonight, for me, is to appoint my Vice President. And that will, of course, be Bob Macey.

MR. MACEY: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: Bob's seniority on this council allows him to provide insight and advice on all issues of county government. I would also be remiss if I didn't thank Councilman Futules and Councilman Palmiere as senior members of this council as well for their unique guidance. Over the next few weeks, I will be putting together committee assignments and plan on gathering everyone's input into the process overall.

Furthermore, as President of County Council, I have the pleasure to serve on the jail oversight board.

Moving forwards, I plan on having Councilwoman Bethany Hallam to be my eyes and ears on this board and serve at meetings in my place.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: No one can provide the insight that Councilwoman Bethany Hallam can into the problems and solutions of what we're dealing with at our Allegheny County Jail. Bethany can deal with the problems from within, because she's been obviously a victim of the services of the jail. And mark my words, we can do better, and we shall do better.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: We also need to be an inclusive council that can shed more light on process and encourage participation by all for good government. That's our responsibility to each and every one of you.

In closing, I look forward to working with each of you --- each of my colleagues, as we embark on this change, substantive and meaningful change, to improve taxpayer services and increase our efficiencies. Like I said before, we can only do this together. So let's roll up our sleeves and give to the people what they deserve and truly expect by electing us to County Council. I again thank you from the bottom of my heart for the overwhelming support, and I look forward to a fantastic year ahead with you and all of my colleagues. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: At this point in time, do we have any Proclamations or Certificates?

MR. BARKER: We have none.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

MR. WALTON: Motion to adjourn.

PRESIDENT CATENA: I believe we have Public Comment.

MR. WALTON: Motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn must be accepted at any point. If you don't want to do it, you have to cast everyone's votes to either adjourn or not adjourn, but you can't deny the motion.

PRESIDENT CATENA: There's a lack of a second, obviously, so Mr. Walton, I would like to hear from the --- obviously, the residents that have come out to speak tonight. I think we owe it to them to hear them and what they have to say.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: So we'll begin with public comment on agenda items. I don't believe there are any agenda items.

MR. BARKER: Correct.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. And there are no Approval of Minutes.

MR. BARKER: None.

PRESIDENT CATENA: We have no Presentation of Appointments.

MR. BARKER: Also correct.

PRESIDENT CATENA: We have no Unfinished Business.

MR. BARKER: Also correct.

PRESIDENT CATENA: We have no Liaison Reports this evening. We have no New Business or Ordinances. And we have no New Business for Motions or Contracts.

MR. BARKER: Correct.

PRESIDENT CATENA: But we do have Public Comment on General Items.

MR. BARKER: Correct.

PRESIDENT CATENA: So please, Mr. ---.

MR. BARKER: First up is John Detwiler.

MR. DETWILER: I'm John Detwiler from the City of Pittsburgh. Good evening. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. As a member of Marcellus Protest and Protect Our Parks, working with County Council for nearly ten years, I congratulate the new councilmembers, those who have been reelected, President Catena and you, Bob Macey. This is a night for celebration, and then it's time to get to work. Of all the issues that will come before you none is more serious than the toxic air we breathe every day. Our county's air is among the worst in the nation. It affects not only our economic potential, it threatens the health and the very lives of our families and our neighbors. So all of us should care about our air. But I want to make it clear how air quality is a direct responsibility for you as County Council.

Here in this county, the EPA delegates its authority over air quality to our County Health Department. That Department is a distinct legal entity with an autonomous Board of Health, whose members in turn are appointed by you, County Council. You choose the people who decide what happens to our air. And critically, the appointments of more than half of the Board of Health expire within the next two weeks. So it

is urgent that you understand the needs of the Board and of the Department itself before you vote on another round of appointments.

Today's public --- publicity announcement from the Health Department doesn't change a word of what I have prepared to say tonight. Our Health Department's Air Quality Program is a failure. Just look at the results, our unhealthy air. But if you look more closely and you penetrate behind the excuses, you will find failed management and perverse and dysfunctional processes. If you attend meetings of the Board of Health, as we hope you will next week, you will quickly realize that the current Board shows neither the attitude nor the aptitude that it will take to fix those problems. I have no disrespect for board members as individuals. Each of them is a caring professional in their own field and has been generous with their service, but as a whole, the board has too many of one kind of person and too few or none of other important kinds of people.

This council has an obligation and a very rare opportunity to reshape the composition of the Board of Health and to begin to repair the Health Department. We can have healthy air in time, but only when the Health Department's people and processes are aligned toward that goal and governed by a committed and competent board. To address our toxic air, you must not rush through the nominations that Mr. Fitzgerald will be sending you. That's how things have been done here for too long, and our neighbors and their children are suffering for it. We are ready to begin working with you immediately to review the strengths and the gaps in the Board of Health and to offer our recommendations for board memberships.

I have never been more optimistic about our county government than I am this evening. But we can't breathe excuses. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. BARKER: Next up is Mel Packer.

MR. PACKER: I come before you today with great hopes for the future of this council. As some of you know, I've been here in the past bearing criticism of County Council's decisions. While there's been dissent in the past by a few who have recognized we actually entered the 21st Century, some of this council has remained wedded to images of reviving our individual past, not only by supporting the Clairton Coke Works and U.S. Steel, but

with new and dangerous ventures like fracking and cancer producing petrochemical plants. Like a horse with blinders on, this council has all too often been a handmaiden for the political aspirations of Rich Fitzgerald, who is himself a hired handmaid for industries that not only bring environmental disasters, but which have blackmailed state and local officials into supporting massive taxpayer subsidies.

If we didn't know that our county executive was registered as a Democrat, you'd have a hard time confusing his policies with our science-denying President. The year is 2020. The time for actions to benefit our county residents by this council is long overdue. Along with many others, I am overjoyed to see new and energized activists joining this body. A few of you have toiled mightily in the past few years to bring the council into the 21st Century and to work --- and to work for progressive change. And I hope this new council would work for progressive change and enable the creation of a more activist County Council that will consider scientific evidence and act independently of Rich Fitzgerald. That evidence is clear. We are destroying chances to bring residents and businesses into our area by continued support of U.S. Steel's Clairton Coke Works and the refusal to clean it up. Yes, those are jobs, but it's also brought to us and our county the worst air in the nation, one of the highest pediatric asthma rates. And do we really think that families want to relocate into that?

In addition, U.S. Steel is lying about saving jobs, expansion and according to most analysts, it's headed down a financial rat hole, now being 26th in the world on the list of steel producers. It's time to cut that umbilical cord, while at the same time demanding job retraining funds from U.S. Steel and actively seeking newer and cleaner operations, especially from the rapidly expanding renewables industry. It's time to demand that the Board of Allegheny County Health Department hire a truly independent chief, instead of just another Fitzgerald political hack who just moved on having failed to protect county residents.

(Applause.)

MR. PACKER: This council's past majority has always promoted the fracking industry, and while those actions have kept us mired in 20th Century thinking, major pension funds and banks have publicly announced that they

will no longer fund fossil fuel operations and development. And their reasons were not because of a great moral awakening, but simply that such investments are now considered losers that bring declining revenues. The entire fracking industry, while continuing extortion of both our county and our state, is going bankrupt, and has no way out of the holes they have dug except to dig more holes and go deeper into debt. As a recent CMU study revealed, it is an industry that brings more harm than benefit, and it's time to bury that horse.

Finally, we need to bury whatever hatchets exist between environmental activists and council, and hope that the future of this body is one of confronting the truth, recognizing science, admitting past mistakes, and charting a truly independent course that makes the residents who benefit, serve the benefits to residents that have placed their faith in you to make a better world for all. Frankly, I wish you a happy new year. I wish you a cheery welcome to new council members, old and new, and my sincere hope for a better tomorrow for all of us. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you, sir, and Happy New Year to you as well. Jared?

MR. BARKER: Next up is Matthew Mehalik.

MR. MEHALIK: Good evening. I am Matthew Mehalik of Gibsonia. Congratulations to all members of council and to all members who are here for a new session in the yea of 2020. We wish you all good health and a happy new year.

I'm Matt Mehalik. I'm the Executive Director of the Breathe Project, an organization dedicated to improving our region's air quality, working together with over 39 regional organizations and institutions, with science and public health at our core. I am here hopefully to alert this new council to the dire need for institutional leadership to protect the health of our county's residents from both --- from both chronic and acute air quality issues in our county.

From a chronic perspective, our entire county's air quality ranks in the eight percentile nationally, with over half of our days having air quality rated as not good. We're out of compliance with the Clean Air Act for particles on an annual basis, and this affects everyone

from Warrendale to West Elizabeth. Fixing this will take long-term institutional leadership and commitment.

2019 was also a year of acute air pollution. The Clairton Coke Works emitted over ten years' worth of regular pollution in 101 days when its plant blew up on Christmas Eve in 2018 because of poor maintenance. Another fire erupted in June 2018. And over Christmas 2019, the region experienced eight days of horrific air. We're in the top five worst air sites in the United States for eight consecutive days, often ranked number one, and between December 20th and 28th, there were seven days of violations of the hydrogen sulfide 24-hour standard, and six violations of the 24-hour particle matter standard during this period. Numerous complaints about bad smells throughout the region were recorded on the Smell Pittsburgh App, and monitors have reported high levels of benzene in the Mon Valley.

What was the response from the County Health Department? To blame the weather. What was the response from the Board of Health? Silence. What was the response from the County Executive? Silence. Who is protecting the health of county residents from these acute and harmful situations? I call on this council to step into this leadership vacuum. Only appoint members to the Board of Health that commit to protecting county residents from polluted air. Only approve new health --- a new Health Department Director who will lead on air quality enforcement and hold the County Executive accountable for protecting the health of county residents from air pollution. No more blaming the weather. Commit to protecting county residents. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

MR. BARKER: Next up is Mike Stout.

MR. STOUT: Hello. My name is Mike Stout. I'm with the Izaak Walton League. And our mission is the Constitution of the state of Pennsylvania, Article 1, Section 27, we have a constitutional right to clean air and pure water. And we don't have it. And anybody up here that thinks we do have it, give me what you're smoking.

We are doing studies right now, and I want to let County Council know this, everybody here, we have four different coalitions that have been testing the waters and the air on every single stream that's been flowing into the Mon River for the last eight years and becoming our

drinking water. We are putting over 50 cancer causing carcinogens into our streams and coming into our rivers and coming into our drinking water and out of our faucets. And I'm talking levels of bromide, radium 226, radium 228, and I'm even talking dioxin, which is Agent Orange, is coming into our drinking water, and nobody is doing a damned thing about it.

And here's what we're going to do. These new people that are on council, and I --- I include Anita in this. They're on council. You know why they're on council? Because there are armies out here. We're an army and we're coming back every month and we're not going to stop until we get some legislation that does what you all are promising to do up there. And I'm going to tell you what it is. Number one. We have --- organized labor that I was part of back in 1984, got a law passed in the State of Pennsylvania, the first in the United States, it's called the Pennsylvania Worker Community Right to Know Law. Nobody enforces it. We are demanding that County Council enforce the law. This law says that we have a right to know what chemicals are being put into our water, air and food supply by what companies, and the laws fall through the cracks, and nobody is doing a damn thing about it.

Number two, our water testing standards are abysmal. Our water testing standards are 100 years old. Fifty (50) some carcinogens I referred to, none of them are being tested. None of them. And do you know why they're not being tested? Because our wastewater treatment facilities are 100 years old. Our wastewater treatment facilities aren't equipped to even filter this stuff out. It's high time you people stepped up to the plate and did your job and upgraded and cleaned our air and cleaned our water up.

And lastly, I want to tell you this. There's a petrochemical industry coming online here. That petrochemical industry is going to put more pollution in the air than you can even imagine. And if you want to know what it's like, look in the packet that I gave you, all County Council members. There's an article there called Welcome To Cancer Alley. Look at what's going on down in the Town of Reverse (sic), Louisiana. The cancer rates are 50 times the national average. Brothers and sisters, that's what's --- that's what's coming your way, and we got to put a stop to it. We're going to ban single

use plastics. We're going to upgrade our water testing standards, and we're going to get this pollution out of our water and air. And what's more, see this army out here, we're going to come back every month until you do your job. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. DEMARCO: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I'm Patricia DeMarco from the Borough of Forest Hills, member of the Borough County Council. I am the Chair of the Congress of Neighboring Communities Working Group on Environment and Economic Development. I am speaking to you tonight, first of all, to congratulate all of you for your election and reelection to this council. I think the obligations of dealing with the many problems that we have that are regional in nature, which our individual towns cannot conquer alone, is absolutely critical. We are a team of people elected throughout this county who is struggling with the existential crises of our time. And it's time for a reckoning. This is the year we have to face reality.

The climate crisis and the global pollution that we face are looking into a gaping maw of hell if we do not act, and the time for effective action is closing and closing and closing by the day. We have recent reports from the United Nations, which I'm giving to you --- I'm not going to read it --- which document that we are the warmest five-year period on record. We are continuing in the decrease of sea ice and ice mass nationwide, and the sea level rise in accordance is becoming more and more acidic. How in the world do we care about this in Allegheny County? We are the recipients of the climate refugees from the Gulf Coast who are moving the petrochemical interests into our area because we are in a place that is likely to have temperate weather, enough fresh water and fertile grounds to be a life-sustaining force not just for our own neighborhoods, but for the country.

We are facing the dichotomy of choosing between having fresh water to drink and to support life or having fresh water to drive fracking. I plead with you that you think of our obligation to our children and to the next generation of those yet to be born in this century. And remember our common humanity and our obligation to rise above the divisions of race, gender, religion, even politics, and think about maintaining a survivable,

livable world for the next generation. Thank you for your attention and Godspeed.

(Applause.)

MR. BARKER: Next up is Loretta Weir. Loretta Weir.

MS. WEIR: Hi. I'm Loretta Weir. I live in the City of Pittsburgh. We've been coming down here for ten years now, and I really liked that little shout out to your boss, Mr. Futules, but let me just tell you, we already know, those of us who have been around here, that he supports the fracking industry. He was in the pocket of the gas company. He appealed to them for money. Quid pro quo, I believe they call that, and told them give me your money, I'll help you. I'll be your best friend. Now I'm just going to let you know, because obviously you don't read a lot of things that we read, but I'm going to give you a little bit of information real quick on just what's happening with your water.

Pennsylvania is discharging radioactive fracking waste into our rivers as landfill leachate impacting the Chesapeake Bay and Ohio River Watersheds. The DEP has allowed 14 sewage wastement (sic) treat plants --- treatment plants to discharge radioactive fracking waste as landfill leachate into 13 waterways in Pennsylvania. There were 15 until Belle Vernon shut theirs down in May. The DEP couldn't even provide the total annual volume of leachate for each of the 15 facilities, but we estimate --- they estimated them to be 547,500,000 gallons per year, on the low end, and 1.6 billion gallons per year, on the high end.

Now, I bet we all wonder why there are cancer clusters in Canon-McMillan and everywhere else. Cancer is on the rise everywhere. Okay? Everywhere. I have lost family members to cancer. It's ugly. It's ugly. Okay? And this is happening all the time. I'm hearing every day of more young women, more young kids. Okay? Children are most susceptible to these kind of toxins, to air quality toxins. To children, everything is more rapid with their cell development and their growth, and this is much more dangerous for them. So who do we protect? It all sounds good, but I'm not sure who we're protecting. Okay? The DEP couldn't even provide any information, and I'll just --- I'll just let you know this. That when they were told that they were taking leachate in at night, on weekends, they were sneaking it into the landfills, their response

was, well, they're supposed to report this to us. They're self reporting. We trust this industry. They're self reporting. Their response was they're not allowed --- this is on the honestly policy. Okay?

The best thing that could happen for this county is to drive Rich Fitzgerald the hell out of it. Okay? That's all I have to say. And I just hope --- I'm glad to see some new faces that I think will shake this up. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. BARKER: Next up is Kenneth Weir.

MS. WEIR: My name is Kenneth Weir. I live in the City of Pittsburgh, Lincoln Place Section of the city. And some familiar faces are here. John Palmieri, Bob Macey, and good buddy, Nick Futules. Last time I saw him he said F you, Mr. Weir, and F you, all the people you brought with you. And that is on the video. So I'm sorry he's not here. Oh, here he comes. Okay. Anyways, I want to read something. The Chief Executive of Allegheny County is the most influential political office west of Harrisburg. He or she sets the agenda for all of Western Pennsylvania. This office is much more important than a state senator, state house or a congressional leader. I hope you guys realize this before it's too late. Wow. Where did that come from? Let me swing --- fast forward now to where we're at today in the political climate.

Quid pro quo. Something of value for something of value. Selling and buying. One hand washes the other. Tit for tat. Scratch my back and I'll scratch yours. Pay or play. This for that. Those are all examples of quid pro quo, which we see every day now in the newspaper with the President, the Trump, the guy that's in office right now. Okay? Now we fast forward to where we're at today. We have poor air quality. Our water is being polluted. And we have a County Executive that wrote an e-mail to the industry demanding money. And I quote, I need money, and I need it fast. What I really need from Marcellus Shale industry is money. Put your money where your mouth is. That came from Rich Fitzgerald's e-mail to the Marcellus Shale Coalition way back in January of 2011.

Now, you think about that, where we're at today. With the air quality that we have. And he's promoting the industry to come in and put more pollutants in our air when we're already one of the worst. And I think we have to attack this through the Health Department, because I

don't know if this council has it to stand up to Rich Fitzgerald. I certainly hope so. I certainly hope so. And it reminds me, you know, when I used to play sports in high school, and there were times I was like, oh, I can't do it, I can't do it, and the coach says, yeah, you can, he said some things. Well, that's the way I feel now. I feel energized. I see new faces on this council. I feel energized. I can pick myself back up now and come back down. I'll be back. Because I have a lot to say and we have a lot of stuff to do.

Okay? So congratulations to everybody, and we'll see. We'll see where we're at. We'll come back. We're not going away.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: To the remaining speakers, if you could address your remarks to the Chair instead of individual councilmembers, I'd appreciate it. Thank you. Jared.

MR. BARKER: Next up is Dee Kochirka.

MS. KOCHIRKA: Good evening. This is the first time ---.

PRESIDENT CATENA: I'm sorry. Name and address, ma'am. I'm sorry.

MS. KOCHIRKA: Dee Kochirka. Tracy Drive. Pittsburgh. This is the first time I've attended one of these meetings, and I find it appalling that the County Executive has walked out. He can't be bothered to listen to what we have to say. Apparently, we don't matter very much. Please extend my message to him.

I am a registered nurse. I was born in Pittsburgh. I've lived here most of my life. We have four children. Two of them still live here in Pittsburgh and two live out of state. When my son from out of state comes to visit me, I have a reverse osmosis water filter on my kitchen sink and he says mom, what is that for? And I have to explain to him that the water in the City of Pittsburgh is worse than that of Flint, Michigan. And he sees air filters in our home and he says mom, what is that for? And I have to explain to him that the air quality last week in the Allegheny County was the worst in the nation.

My younger son still lives here. He wants to stay here. He was looking at a duplex in Coraopolis, about a block away from the Ohio River. And I said, oh, you don't want to buy that place. He said why? I said

because the Ohio River is the most unregulated river in the United States. It has the most --- is one of the most contaminated and unregulated rivers. So he said to me, well, then why would I want to stay here if there's no future?

Now, when I became a nurse, I took an oath to do no harm. And I see a lot of harm. You see, I used to live in Texas. And I saw the harm that the petrochemical industry did to them. They don't call them Cancer Alley for nothing. And now I see Cancer Alley coming to Western Pennsylvania. Ninety (90) percent of cancer comes from the environment. If you go on the American Cancer website, you will see that. Children are especially vulnerable. A few years ago, I was at my uncle's funeral. My cousin's son was 17 years old. He was complaining of leg pain. That kid was in so much pain he couldn't get to the gravesite to watch his grandfather be buried. When he went to the doctor, they diagnosed him as having Ewing sarcoma, which occurs in one in a million children. He's dead now. I have made it my mission to warn the public about the harm caused by the plastics and the fracking industry. I go to schools. I go to churches. I go to art groups. I go to civic groups. I share films on plastics. And I teach people about the harmful chemicals and what they are doing to their bodies.

And people get really upset when they find out that that cracker plant is making plastics. And people get really upset when they find out that we're fracking so that we can feed those cracker plants and make more plastics. And people get really upset when they find out how much they're being lied to.

PRESIDENT CATENA: I'm sorry, ma'am. You've reached three minutes. Could you wrap --- try to wrap it up?

MS. KOCHIRKA: So I ask you as members of City Council ---.

PRESIDENT CATENA: County Council.

MS. KOCHIRKA: County Council. Where do you stand? Are you going to side with the dirty money or will you have the courage to stand up and do no harm?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

MR. BARKER: Next up is Walt Kochirka.

MR. KOCHIRKA: My name is Walt Kochirka. I'm from Bethel Park, and I'm here today to congratulate the -- the new members of the County Council and to remind

them and the rest of council of their obligations to the health and welfare of the residents of Allegheny County. As Article 1, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution explicitly states, quote, the citizens of Pennsylvania have a right --- a right to clean air and pure water. And Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people including generations to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people.

I watched everyone come up and swear on the Bible to abide by the laws of the Pennsylvania Constitution. I just wanted to point that out a little bit. It's right at the beginning. It's real easy to find. And it's of real concern.

Today we're representing not only my generation, but my children's generation and my grandchildren's generation. A lot --- a lot of our members, a lot of our --- my associates are experiencing cancers in their families. The old council had a reputation of acting in ways that appeared to sell out to big business. There was a lack of transparency with the old council and questionable reasons for some of the decisions they made that suggested crony --- cronyism, and some actions that the old council took that gave the appearance of possible payoffs or bidless contracts, or favors made that did not appear to be in the best interest of Allegheny County citizens or the future generations. The old council supported fracking and the petrochemical expansion in our area. And without argument, both fracking and the cracker plant are dangerous to air and water purity.

Will --- will the air and the water pollution problems jeopardize economic and population growth in our region? Will young people want to stay in or come to Allegheny County to grow roots and raise families when they have environmental health concerns including high cancer rates and breathing ailments? Can the appearance that our elected officials are being bought and sold be corrected? Can we start doing things for the right reasons? Will the new council be bullied into ---?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Sir, if you could wrap it up. That's your three minutes.

MR. KOCHIRKA: Will the new council be bullied into acting like the old council? I ask the new council these questions so they can stand up for the Allegheny

County citizens that they represent, including the children, who are only going to get sicker. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

MR. BARKER: Next up is Gwen Chute.

MS. CHUTE: I am Gwen Chute. 904 Valleyview Road, Mount Lebanon. My sincere congratulations to all newly elected members and those of you who are returning for another go at the next four years. These four years are critically important for Allegheny County, for Pennsylvania, and indeed for the planet earth, as those holding higher office must deal with the state, national and global issues. I want to talk --- talk with you about your position as a County Council Member. As others will likely tell you, there are critical issues right here in Allegheny County. I will mention just one that, as a retired registered nurse, is important to me. Air quality and the health of residents whom you represent. Those who don't follow the data often express disbelief at the fact that our region has among the worst air quality in the nation. That can't be true, they say, look at that blue sky. It never used to look that good.

But if you are the parent of a child with asthma, you know we have a problem. Asthma rates, which have not improved in several years, 10 percent of adults, 12 percent of children, 27 percent of black teens, tell the real story. So when it comes time for you to recommend to the county executive a new head of the ACHD and approved reappointment of its members, their dedication to doing what is necessary to change those numbers will be of utmost importance.

Now, those of you who are newly elected know that you will not be getting rich in this position any time soon, even with this year's modest raise. But this is no time to sit back and take it easy just doing as you're told. It embarrasses me to say that this body has had a reputation of being a rubber stamp committee for the County Executive, whose salary, by the way, has taken a giant leap to more than double its previous amount. That hefty raise sends a message about the importance of the position. It could also be viewed as a powerful incentive to make clear just who is in charge, even at the risk of overreach. Not that Mr. Fitzgerald tends to hesitate to exercise his power when opportunity presents. In your position, however, intestinal fortitude and a stiff spine

is what will be required if you are to perform your job as it was designed.

It was not meant to be easy, and the best of you will work hard every day to get the facts and make decisions that give you the satisfaction that comes with knowing you're doing the right thing. That may be the richest reward you will ever earn in this position. I wish each of you a happy new year, and I look forward to seeing you often during 2020 and beyond. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. BARKER: Next up is Edward Chute.

MR. CHUTE: Ed Chute. 904 Valleyview Road, Mount Lebanon. Please allow me to add my kudos, congratulations and welcome to the newly elected first time County Council Members. Likewise, my greeting to those members elected or reelected since my last comments to the council a few years ago. There's an interesting tale concerning Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli's response to a question in 1958 shortly after his unexpected election at the age of 76 as Pope John XXIII. He was asked why he so quickly called into being what came to be the historic second Vatican council. Pope John XXIII's response was that he walked over to a large window and opened it, or as he supposedly put it, let in some fresh air.

Clearly, a regular open free and individually secret election process is at the core of our American Republic's experiment in democracy. And it can certainly enable stability and change as well as fresh air as needed. Fresh air, alas, is something we do not have in abundance here in Allegheny County. In fact, during the recent Christmas holiday season, our County's air was designated and reported by our local, the national, even international media as having the worst quality of air in the entire nation. For Christmas Eve day and Christmas Day itself of 2019, our region was placed under an orange alert, warning young children and the elderly to stay inside because of the unhealthy level of pollutants.

The Home Rule Charter preamble of Allegheny County approved by our fellow citizens May 19th, 1999, begins rather referentially. We the people of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, believe that government, which separates its legislative and executive functions, will provide checks and balances on the powers of government, and protect the rights, privileges and powers reserved or guaranteed to the people. I have read the charter. And I

expect not only that you will read it. It's only a couple pages. But please also carefully follow its spirit and intentions as well as its prescriptions.

In addition to air and water pollution concerns, there are plenty available avenues of opportunity for you. Proper oversight of the Allegheny County Health Board and other agency's appointments. Protections for LGBTQ and folks of color communities, a citizens review board for the sheriff and District Attorney's officers especially related to the lives and safety of county jail occupants as well as bail quality that provides equal justice opportunity for all.

It is conceivable to me that it's not just possible, but improbable that the planets and stars have aligned in such a way that our reconstituted Allegheny County Council ---

PRESIDENT CATENA: Sir.

MR. CHUTE: --- can open a couple of windows into our county's future.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

MR. CHUTE: Best wishes.

(Applause.)

MR. BARKER: The last speaker is Thaddeus Popovich.

MR. POPOVICH: I have some handouts for each council member. You can follow along. You only give us three minutes. It's difficult to get in real meaty stuff, isn't it?

My name is Thaddeus Popovich. I live in Franklin Park, 1654 Stone Mansion Drive. And I'm going to talk --- by the way, I'm sorry, congratulations on all of you who have come into service for our county. I think that's great. You are better people than I am. I was offered that opportunity a few times in local governments, so thank you very much. Okay.

In any case, I'm going to --- all of you know of Charles Dickens' ghosts of Christmas past, present and future. So I'm going to talk about ghosts of pollution. I'm going to talk about ghosts of pollution past, present and future. The first sheet that I gave you, this is --- you can't see the video, but if you go to the link down below, you can look at it at your leisure. It's over a four-minute video. The BBC came to town in Pittsburgh five years ago, and they had a mobile bureau and they wanted to report news that was under-reported. They

reported about air pollution in Pittsburgh, specifically air pollution across the Ohio River, the Shenango Coke Works, where I once lived. And I was told by my cardiologist and researchers get the hell out of there. You should not live in a valley, particular a half mile away from a coke plant. Okay? I did ultimately. But in the meantime, I had quintuple heart bypass surgery. And I was told that half of that was due to really bad air.

Okay. I moved to Franklin Park. Guess what's happening there? See this? That's the plume from Clairton. It makes it all the way up to Clairton --- I'm sorry, to Franklin Park where I live now. I thought I was safe. I'm not safe there either. Ms. Clark, you're going to help us understand that better in Franklin Park, aren't you, because I'll be damned if I'm going to move again without us fixing the problem here. Okay? And then, of course, we stopped fracking in Franklin Park to protect Franklin Park from Penn Energy Sources wanting to frack under the 80 acre borough park. I said how dare they? How dare they? We stopped them. We stopped them. And why were they wanting to frack in the fringes of Allegheny County? To supply ethane for the cracker plant. Their Vice President of land sales told me so. I'm quoting him. Oh, we already have a contract to --- when we take that -- -- the natural gas out, we're sending it to a cryogenic plant in Evans City. We're going to pipe it over into the shell plant. We have a contract to do that already. Already. They make plastic and they're ruining our lives with our health.

Okay? I have bronchitis now. Since all those bad air days, my bronchitis is in sync with the bad air days. Coupled with my heart, cardiovascular disease, this is not a good place to live. Finally --- that's my cue, huh?

MR. BARKER: Yes.

MR. POPOVICH: The fracking end game. Please read this. It connects all the dots for you. Put out by Food and Water Watch, Locked into Plastics Pollution, and my favorite, Climate Chaos. So we're in the midst of climate chaos here. We don't realize it yet.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

MR. POPOVICH: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

MR. FUTULES: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes?

MR. FUTULES: Point of person privilege.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Point of personal privilege?

MR. FUTULES: Yes. Thank you. I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on becoming our new president and Bob Macey as our Vice President. I'd like to congratulate the rest of County Council, new members, and us that got just reelected. And special tonight, we have a record breaker that nobody may be aware of. My seat partner, Tom, has now become the youngest member of County Council in the last 20 years.

(Applause.)

MR. FUTULES: Congratulations, Tom.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Is there a motion to adjourn?

MR. FUTULES: So moved.

(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion made and seconded.

All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Ayes respond.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those opposed? Motion carries. Thank you, everyone.

MEETING CONCLUDED AT 7:00 P.M.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify, as the stenographic reporter, that the foregoing proceedings were taken stenographically by me, and thereafter reduced to typewriting by me or under my direction; and that this transcript is a true and accurate record to the best of my ability.

Dated the 24th day of January, 2020

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Danielle Ohm". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Court Reporter

Danielle Ohm